WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1.   A method for inhibiting growth or inducing cell death in a tumor cell, the method comprising the step of contacting the tumor cell with an effective amount of an anti-L1CAM antibody or L1CAM-binding fragment thereof for a time and at a concentration sufficient to inhibit cell growth or induce cell death in the tumor cell.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the anti-L1CAM antibody is immunologically specific for human L1CAM.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the tumor cell is a human tumor cell.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the human tumor cell is a colon cancer cell , a cervical carcinoma cell or a breast cancer cell.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein cell death is induced in at least 50% of the tumor cells.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein cell death is induced in at least 70% of the tumor cells.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein cell death is induced in at least 90% of the tumor cells.

8.   A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-L1CAM antibody or L1CAM-binding fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient.

9.   A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 wherein the anti-L1CAM antibody is immunologically specific for human L1CAM.